

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
of the
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Budget Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on Tuesday, March 12, 2002.

Members Present:

Legislator Michael Caracciolo - Chairman
Legislator David Bishop - Vice-Chairman
Legislator Andrew Crecca
Legislator Jon Cooper

Also In Attendance:

Paul Sabatino II - Counsel to the Legislature
Fred Pollert - Director of Budget Review
Ken Weiss - County Exec's Budget Office
Ken Knappe - County Exec's Budget Office
Brian Foley - Legislator
Martin Haley - Legislator
Lise Keyes - Aide to Leg. Caracciolo
Barbara LoMoriello - Aide to Leg. Cooper
Chris Smith
Mary Foster
Stacy Meyers
Sally Faulke
John Mantonie
Dinah Castro
Tom Dooley
Emerson Hasbroock
Cynthia Kaminski
Ken Ernst
Augusta Field
All other interested parties

Minutes Taken By:

Donna Barrett - Court Stenographer

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:40 P.M.*)

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Well, we will start a little bit earlier than anticipated because Legislator Cooper has made better time than anticipated. So will everyone please rise for the Pledge to be led by Legislator Bishop.

SALUTATION

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Thank you. If anyone has arrived and is not aware of our practice and you'd to address the committee, there should be yellow cards up here at this conference table. Kindly fill one out and just bring it up to the horseshoe, and we will add you to the list the speakers. Okay. The first speaker to address the committee is Chris Smith from the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

MR. SMITH:

I'm speaking on behalf the Resolution 1241-2002, amending the Operating Budget to restore 50 % of the funding for Cornell's Marine Science Program. As you know --

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

One minute, Chris.

LEG. FOLEY:

Sorry.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Go ahead.

MR. SMITH:

To really understand the magnitude of the impact of our cuts that we suffered in November, I'd like to describe a little bit about our organization in the Marine Program and how it impacts the residents of Suffolk County. The Marine Program is organized around topical areas, and we've chosen these topical areas to reflect what we feel are some the major needs of the County, including the environment, the economy, economic development, habitat restoration, technology development and youth education. In the costal environmental area, we do in considerable activities in stormwater runoff mitigation. I know in previous actions by this body stormwater has been identified as a critical need to address in Suffolk County and several very laudable and aggressive bills have been passed to try to address that. We address this in a very aggressive way in Marine Program. We've led the way in Huntington Town in developing a mitigation strategy for them that has resulted in over a million dollars in mitigation monies going to them. We also worked to educate homeowners and also town residents. Here's an example of the type the education material. With funding from New York State DEC, we were able to generate an educational piece like that, which we envision doing throughout Suffolk County. We've also developed an identical piece for Westhampton Beach, and we're in the process of developing a piece like that for Babylon Town.

Also with that though, we help the towns in prioritizing and managing

their efforts to control stormwater runoff with funding that we helped Westhampton and Shelter Island obtain. We have identified every stormwater runoff catchment and allowed them to put that on a GIS

system. We have estimated flows that go to those points that would help them prioritize and more efficiently use their funds to mitigate stormwater runoff. We also do efforts in homeowner education, where we help homeowners learn how to minimize the amount of fertilizers and pesticides that they would place on their properties. Also for ten years, and I know which is a hot topic here confronting now, we have done open marsh water management. We have an aggressive \$250,000 project we're doing with fish and wildlife service support out in Orient. We also have done work in {Accabonic} Harbor and have monitored those and have identified benefits for using that technique. That technique an a natural system for mosquito control. We also are actively researching ways that communities can prioritize their stormwater runoff mitigation sites. We have the first ever in our region DNA research laboratory where we can identify the source of bacteria in stormwater runoff as to what type of animal or organism contributes it. That can directly tell us what type of mitigation efforts would be appropriate. For instance, if there is a dog -- if we identified dog E. Coli, we know that people walking their dogs or a popular dogrun is contributing a significant amount of the stormwater runoff pollution that leads to closures of shellfish areas.

We also are actively working in submerged aquatic vegetation. We've development a first ever nationwide culture facility for eel grass. Eel grass is a very important submerged type of plant that is responsible for a nursery area for many of our valuable marine species. We are -- we have developed -- our staff has developed the first horticultural protocol to grow this species on land. We have build with grant funding, we grant funding we obtained, a greenhouse that is now in use to culture eel grass from seeds. We are actively trying to spread this technology throughout Suffolk County, which is evidence by a bond act application we have submitted with the Town of Huntington to help that town assess the feasibility of returning SAVs to that area. Also, we're working with the Office the Ecology in many projects, concerning in the Peconic Bay area. One of our prominent programs as supported by the Suffolk County Office of Ecology is the SAV Monitoring Program, where we can determine the health of the existing beds. We also are doing some work with identifying educational materials that can be placed at marinas and other locations for boaters.

Another area that we emphasize is aquaculture. We run a commercial size shellfish hatchery at our marine lab at Cedar Beach. From this, we do public and small scale private industry development for small scale businesses. We produce about 10 million oysters, clams and bay scallops per year for seeding in the East End towns, and we also run an actively educational program for every coastal town in Suffolk County that has a Shellfish Management Program. As a matter of fact, they're having a meeting today at our facility in Riverhead. In private aquaculture development we've been able to start 20 small scale cottage oyster businesses that are growing concerns that sell their product directly to restaurants. We also had led the way ever since the brown tide in helping to reseed bay scallops. We're the only organization doing that presently in Suffolk County.

Our fisheries program supports a \$75 million ex-vessel industry. That's worth about \$300 million to the local economy. We were the first organization to organize the lobster relief program that it resulted in federal designation as a disaster area. One night in Huntington Town Hall, we had 350 lobstermen, and it was a raucous meeting, as I know one of you attended, at least. We have an upcoming train program that will bring \$300,000 in training funds from the state to the lobster industry to help them learn alternative jobs that they can potentially go into until the situation is squared away. One of our programs that we're most proud of is trying to establish a stronger West End Suffolk County presence. We were able to do that by working with Huntington Town and obtaining \$280,000 from a cable company to establish the Vanderbilt Education Program. That program, is up and running now. It has significant impact on the lobster industry as well as we're staging educational programs throughout Western Suffolk County at a location.

Also in fisheries, the management framework is seriously threatening the livelihoods of many of our commercial fishermen. Fishermen now are faced with a broad variety of management regulations, and one the key things they have to do is accurately report their catches, because next year's catch often -- the amount they allowed to catch next year is often determined by the amount they caught this year. We have an active program sponsored by the Natural Marine Fishery Service at no County expense that helps the County commercial fisheries collect those statistics throughout Suffolk County, not -- well, just throughout the County. We do aggressive economic development programs, we participated in every disaster relief program, and the way we participate is we go to the fisherman's house, we sit at their tables, we help them fill out loan forms, grant forms, we get money into their pockets that their families need to keep their -- their livelihoods going.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Chris, let me just request that you sum up. I know that you have worked very hard in the last several weeks reaching out to individual Legislators. I believe the members of this committee are intimately familiar with the fine work that you and those in the Marine Science Program do. And we would like to see you continue to do. So if you can just sum up. I know you have a handout, I hope you have already distributed it to members of the Legislature, but if you have extra copies, we'd would appreciate, you know, if you did that now. So if you could just kindly sum up. I know there are other speakers here to address this is issue. We have an Environment, Land Acquisition Committee meeting that starts at 3:30, so I'd like to try, if we can, to stay on course and schedule. And this has been distributed to ever Legislator?

MR. SMITH:

Not yet.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Okay. For the benefit of my colleagues on the committee, I've requested that Chris prepare this to demonstrate to each member that the programs undertaken by Marine Science are not limited to any geographical portion of the County, but rather to just about ever

corner of the County. I would encourage you when you have an opportunity before we take up the resolution to look at the fine work they do and where they do that. And I think you'll agree that this is program funding that should be restored. Thank you, Chris.

MR. SMITH:

Mike, could I make one more mention of something?

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Sure.

MR. SMITH:

One of the most exciting projects we are presently working on, which a gentleman will testify shortly, is creating artificial reefs off the South Shore of Long Island that would benefit many South Shore communities. This program would generate \$13.3 million to the local economy annually. That would bring \$1.13 million in annual sales tax revenue to Suffolk County coffers. I would hope that you would listen to John Mantione from the New York Fish and Tackle Dealers Association when he comes up.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

With respect to your particular program and the impacts, the reduction in funding, what has been the result? And at what point in time will the restoration of these funds become critical?

MR. SMITH:

Well, the actions in November basically eliminated the salaries for all our key people. It was entirely salary dollars that were eliminated, including me.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Well, when you say -- when you say payroll dollars, you're really talking about if you don't have individuals on payroll, then you don't have programs and services that you can provide.

MR. SMITH:

Correct.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

So to quantify what the impact has been to programs and services, could you do that?

MR. SMITH:

Well, we've had to cut down significantly on your ability to respond quickly to the needs of people calling in. We get 50 to 70 calls a week for assistance from Suffolk County residents. I had a call today from a gentleman that wants to do a conference on -- as a result of 9/11 for maritime security for Long Island Sound, Mark Miller from Miller Environmental Group. We have limited ability to help those individuals who now put together educational conferences such as that. So we're basically, you know, living day-to-day, and luckily we had significant grants available to keep us going, but that is not always going to be the case. And I would say, you know, our critical dates are somewhere June to September.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

What -- what effect has the cut in funding had on the lobster study program out at the Vanderbilt that several of us, I know Legislator Cooper and I sponsored it, but was widely supported by the Legislature and the Executive, to what extent has the program cuts affected the work you commenced there.

MR. SMITH:

We've completed our first year's research as a result of your funding of \$76,000, and we have a report ready, we've reported at a conference on that, but that has now come to an end because we no longer have funds to help lobstermen to take us out in the fields and continue that research.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

What is the economic impact of not having those funds for the second phase of that program on those who make their livelihood out of lobster harvest?

MR. SMITH:

Well, a big feature of that program was chartering lobster fishermen to help take us out, and so they no longer have the charter fees coming in. We also have plans for and have submitted a bond act proposal to do restoration work based out of the Huntington area on that fishery. If our key people aren't around, we won't be able to conduct those efforts to re-establish the fishery.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Thank you very much, Chris.

MR. SMITH:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Mary Foster.

MS. FOSTER:

Good afternoon. My name is Mary Foster. I work with Chris Smith at the Cornell Marine Program. I have several letters I want to hand out to the committee, 37 letters from individuals from Huntington to Orient who have sent letters to different members of the County Legislature. I have 522 signatures on a petition, and as well, I have a letter from the trustees from East Hampton, a resolution urging you to fund the Marine Program. And I just wanted to read -- two people asked me to read from their letters who couldn't be here. And I will be brief, I'll read partially from these letters. One is a joint letter from James {Marco} and --

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Excuse me, ma'am. I think we need a little order from the horseshoe. I know each of us appreciate courtesy by the public when we're in public forums, and I think likewise we should demonstrate the same.

MS. FOSTER:

Thank you. This first letter is a letter James {Marco} and Karen {Rivara}, who own the Aeros Cultured Oyster Company, and they write

about the budget cuts for the Marine Program in particular, that they would like you to know the following: The budgets cut eliminates the salaries for people who create revenue, and these are the people who get the grant money to hire the rest of the forty-some who work at the Marine Program. The Marine Program has helped the shellfish aquaculture industry grow four fold over the last ten years. The Marine Program assists shellfish farmers free of charge through helping them acquire permits and learning about the state-of-the-art technology, business planning, marketing.

These services are unavailable, will be unavailable to farmers without funding the Marine Program. The budget cut does not make good economic sense. In their opinion the manifestation of the services that they talk about for the shellfish industry is an industry that has grown to \$9.6 million wholesale value industry state wide. The County benefits from the lion's share of the growth, with the retail value of three to four times the wholesale value. The sales tax from the retail sales of the aquaculture shellfish industry generates at least 1.4 million for the County. It is in the County's best interest to keep a program that helps the shellfish industry grow and thrive. And finally, they say the Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program augments the Suffolk County Open Space Program by helping keep our bays clean. The County has spent millions of dollars to preserve open space and keep our bays clean. The Marine Program enhances the stewardship of our estuaries by educating the public about the importance of caring for our marine environment.

The second letter is from Tom Morgan of Orient. He writes, "as a resident Orient, I urge you to support the Cooperative Extension Marine Program in your upcoming budget vote. We who live in Suffolk County must learn to become good stewards of our precious marine resources. Each year the Marine Program generates over \$3 million in critical additional services for the residents of Suffolk County. This clean, healthy, vibrant waters and clean beaches are important to our resource, that is the County's \$1.2 billion fishing tourism economy. The Cornell Cooperative Extension Organization is the only organization with the a mission to help both individuals and businesses utilize science to better their economic situation, and that the Marine Program is playing a key role in an important economic development and environmental restoration project -- you just heard Chris Smith talk about -- about artifical reefs that would generate over \$1 million annually in sales tax revenue. To please vote to restate the funding. It makes good economic sense". Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Thank you very much. Next card -- I'm not sure if this is -- is it Stacy?

MS. MYERS:

Yes, it is.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Okay.

MS. MYERS:

Hi. Good afternoon. My name is Stacy Myers, and I currently do Youth

Education for the Cornell Marine Program located on cedar Beach. I brought with me some letters from my students and my teachers that are unable to participate in something like this because they cannot leave their classroom and they can't leave their school.

LEG. BISHOP:

Where is Cedar Beach?

MS. MYERS:

In Southold. This is the Cedar Beach that is found out east, although I'll be speaking of the Cedar Beach that is found here in Western Suffolk or in the middle. Now, the first letter I have is from Heather Rand, and she is a teacher at Commsequoge School District located in Port Jeff Station. I'm a 6th grade Science Language Arts teacher as well as a middle school English subject teacher at the JFK Middle School in Commsequoge School District in Port Jefferson Station. Having been a teacher for several years, I know the importance of real life experiences in the classroom. It is rare to find a program that reaches kids in the classroom such as the Marine Science Education Program offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension in Southold. Students are given an opportunity to work side by side with real scientists and naturalists.

My students first homework assignment was to draw a picture of a scientist and answer the question what is science. In almost every case, the picture depicted a long man with crazy wild hair, stereotypical mad scientist. That is what most of them have been familiar with. They wrote that science was working with a lab and working with chemicals. To break this stereotype, I was fortunate enough to have one of the marine biologists from Cornell visit my classroom. And when the students met her, the stereotype of a scientist was immediately changed. After the presentation on marine biology and scuba diving, students realized that science can be performed anywhere, including underwater. They also realized that scientists could be woman, it could be a young person, it could be someone who is even in their 20s. It was then that the idea of becoming a scientist became a realistic goal for women and men in my classroom. Meeting a young scientist in the flesh meant more to my students than anything I could have ever read them in a book.

The scientist taught my students about SPAT, a shellfish program that restores shellfish in our local bays, about the research being done by Cornell in the bays and the Sound that they swim and play in every day. They raised my students awareness that our environmental -- that our environment is a working laboratory. They carried away from the program a respect for our marine resources in a knowledge that we have to work together to preserve them. I was also impressed with the presentation, that I organized a field trip for the entire 6th grade class that will take place Cedar Beach in Mount Sinai. Two biologists from the Cornell Marine Program will be engaging my students there hands on on marine science. I am unable comprehend as a science teacher and a resident of Suffolk County how a program such as Cornell Program, which is reseeding our bays with shellfish, studying the replenishment of eel grass, an essential habitat for enumerable marine species and studying the effect of stormwater runoff and educating future generations in the stewardship of our vital ecosystem has lost

essential program for the education of our youth in the protection and the restoration of our Long Island waters. I urge you to reinstate the fund to the Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program".

And that's a school in Port Jeff. And I will be brief. I have one more letter I'd like to include. "Dear Legislators, I teach science at an elementary school on Long Island. I love my profession, and I feel that teaching is an honor and a privilege that I take extremely serious. My goal is to encourage and support each and every student that comes through my door. This is no small task for any teacher, and there are many levels of capabilities and development in each class, the most successful learning place when the child is genuinely interested. Have you every tried to keep a child interested in something for more than an hour? It's almost desired talent to be able to relate to a child on that level, to remember what makes them curious, what interests them, to respect them enough to relate to their life, to them. Cornell Cooperative Extension Programs do this and more; engaging the children in hands on learning about local environmental issues to national issues. These students learn while doing. These teachers are a group of very talented and knowledgable individuals that come to schools bringing with them live animals and props for knowledge and applicable data that each and every student witnesses during their program. I beg you to reconsider cutting their funds. Schools are capable of funding what they have so neatly packaged to deliver to schools itself. The cost of sending two science teachers versus 40 children is obviously cost effective. We will be losing valuable lessons and worst yet, we will be losing all the children who get so thrilled when the programs go on to do further studies in the field of science. Please understand that (sic) the full impact this cut will have on school children. We want to encourage these children to study science. We must be prepared to excite them about science. Don't eliminate a successful program in the sciences".

And then I have just something brief from one of my students. And this is Zack Jacobs, who is a fourth grade student that I've had the pleasure to work with from kindergarten on to date. "So I'm asking you as a citizen of Long Island to reconsider your plan. Things won't be the same if you follow through with this plan. My siblings and I have been students in the programs of Cedar Beach Marine Center. It was once of the greatest experience we have ever had. It's so much fun learning going through kayacking, swimming, and learning about the animals that live in these waters. So please reconsider your plan. You will hurt a great program, great staff and the children that love the program".

And lastly, this is from Barry Miller, another student that I've had the fortunate time to work with him for up to four years. "I hope you change your mind and reconsider your decision because we only have one chance to make a difference. And the Marine Center is making a difference in this world. And without the center, eventually people may not be able to enjoy the beaches." Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Ms. Myers, you stated earlier that you were going to make reference to

MS. MYERS:

The other Cedar Beach in Mount Sinai, in that area. We will be working there as well. We do extended fields studies all over Long Island. We take a lot of the student and their teachers to their local spot because it may not be cost effective for them to travel all the way to Cedar Beach located in Southhold. I've also included some photographs of some of the children participating in the programs, and I have the letters that I read. Thank you for your time

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Thank you very much. Sally Faulke.

MS. FAULKE:

Good afternoon. I am here to speak on behalf of the Resolution 1192, to reinstate the funding for the Diabetes Education Program that Cornell Cooperative Extension operates in collaboration with the Suffolk County Health Department. First thing I'd like to say is first of all, to clear up any misunderstandings this program has been extremely valuable and is not a duplication of the services. In fact, it supports and enhances what is already there in -- in the clinics themselves. Diabetes is a disease that can strike anyone, the numbers are growing. We know within this County alone there are over 84,000 people in Suffolk County that have diabetes, and we know 18,000 of them actually are a growing number within the age group of 35 to 54. When we look at the statistics for diabetes, it's very important that we understand that it's not just folks that are elderly that are affected by this, but it is people who are the same age as you gentlemen sitting here in this room today. The thing is that the disease is insidious, it's expensive, it's not just having diabetes, but it's having the complications of diabetes. It means that you can become blind, you can lose a limb, you could have your kidneys fail, or you could have a heart attack. And that's it's insidiousness of this disease. There -- it is a growing number of people on the Island are impacted by this. It is a costly disease. They know that statistics that have been put together by the American Association of Diabetes have actually said that in this County alone it costs \$522 million. We are asking that you reinstate 277,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Question by Legislator Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not a voting member of the committee, but I'm here today to talk -- to ask questions about several bills. As a co-sponsor of this particular bill, I would just ask if you could, ma'am, to speak to the issue of -- of how in the near future -- well, formal presentation have been made in the past that the program is poised for federal -- federal aid; is that not correct?

MS. FAULKE:

That is true.

LEG. FOLEY:

To what extent -- what kind of aid are we looking at? If you could

MS. FAULKE:

All right. Once a program has been certified by the diabetes -- American Diabetes Association --

LEG. FOLEY:

Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if I just may interrupt this speaker, this is a very important point because what this gets to is many Legislators quite rightly ask those agencies whether they try to find monies from other levels of government or other foundations or other sources of funding in addition to or in place of County funding. And the question was that this particular organization is right on the cusp, if you will, of receiving federal aid that would then in essence replace the monies that we would have to fund locally. So if you could just start again.

MS. FAULKE:

We have been working to try to get the program certified by the American Diabetes Association. When a program has been certified and has met certain criteria and standards, it then means they are eligible to apply for federal reimbursement per individual. Now, the funding package for this is such that in addition to that, but that will not happen unless you meet certain criteria, and one of the criteria is you have to have staff there, their statistics have to be -- staff has to have certain qualifications, it has to be a full program. You have to have people who are on an advisory committee, which we have had, you have to collect the statistics for a certain period of time. Now, there has been an interruption so it's going to take longer to get that federal reimbursement then having it pop up, which it would have been coming at the end of this -- this year. However, we can't guarantee that.

LEG. FOLEY:

What were you looking at as far as reimbursement? Was it a 10% reimbursement, 50%, 40%, 90%?

MS. FAULKE:

I believe it goes on a per-person, it's not on a percentage, but if you look at the total program for the funding of this, there are other cost savings as well. One the cost savings is automatically, even without the federal reimbursement, there's over a hundred thousand dollars that the County is eligible for through diabetes education that we -- we initiate that comes back directly to the County. There's also a savings that it received -- I spoke how insidious the disease -- was we have documentation that people have actually gone through the program have been able to cut down on the number of emergency room visits, we have that all documented. And that's worth, this last year there was a savings of \$220,000. I would anticipate it would be at least the same if the program was continued. We also know that Cornell Cooperative Extension, which some of you may not be aware of, takes care of all of the benefit packages for all of the salaries. The salary is paid through the grant of the staff. Cornell Cooperative Extension through Cornell University is able to access all of the benefit package, which is worth about 37% of an individual salary. So right there the County gets another hundred thousand. So

state special reimbursement that comes back to the County, the savings in HR, right there you're hitting 420,000 in savings and revenue, and that's not even getting into the federal reimbursement piece.

LEG. FOLEY:

So in other words, Mr. Chairman, then what's the -- what's the net cost to the County then for the program?

MS. FAULKE:

Right now the County -- or as of last December 31st, the County was putting in a little other 277,000, plus there was an additional \$100,000 grant that had come through initially. So the total package runs around 377,000.

LEG. FOLEY:

That's the net cost to the County, or is that -- or is that the gross?

MS. FAULKE:

That's what is it cost to do the program, it's under 400,000.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Sally, on the other end of this equation, in the absence of the program --

MS. FAULKE:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

-- what are the costs to taxpayers through, you know, federal, state and local?

MS. FAULKE:

Well, the County loses. The County loses, to begin with over 400,000, just to start with. We know just since the beginning of the year, all the classes that were open to County residents that Cornell Cooperative Extension was doing are no longer there. There are a couple of classes due to the special grant in Legislator Postal's district that are still going on, but that was a different funding source. So that has not been impacted. It also means that from a level of care that the County health centers can give that the patients who were there getting the counseling that they needed for self-management are no longer getting it. It means that the individuals who are there who are at high nutritional risk, that some of the women that are pregnant, and those that have HIV are no longer getting the counseling that they need. And it impacts in terms of not only County dollars, but in terms of in terms of human -- what is a human -- the value of human life and quality of life.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Thank you very much.

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MS. FAULKE:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

John Mantione.

MR. MANTIONE:

Good afternoon. My name is John Mantione. I'm still commenting on Resolution 1241, restoring funding to Cornell Marine Program. I'm also here today on behalf of the New York Fish and Tackle Trade Association, an eco-tourism trade organization representing over 300 business and associates in the New York Marine District, Suffolk County's Marine District.

Our main objective is to promote recreational fishing especially to our youth. We are the watchdog of the recreational fishing industry as every member depends on your national resources to earn a living. We are also structured to work on projects and legislation that will enhance the recreational fishing industry, community and conserve our natural resources. Saltwater recreational fishing industry contributes in excess \$1.3 billion to the economy of the State of New York and employs nearly 10,000 people, many Suffolk County residents. Our strength is in building partnerships and forming coalitions that benefit and balance commerce and conservation. One essential partner is Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program. Together we are not process of forming a New York State Marine and Costal Conservation, Education and Research Fund that the Suffolk County Legislature has supported. We are finalizing the building of a sport fishing education center in Babylon, Cedar Beach Marina this time. The function of this facility is to promote sport fishing while increasing public awareness and appreciation of our aquatic natural resources. Hereto, the Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program's expertise has been essential and will be critical in the success of any curriculum carried out in the center. It's a fact that Cornell Extension is the only organization with a mission to help both individuals and businesses utilize science to better their economic situation.

The Marine Program is currently playing a key role in assisting of a coalition of over 26 organization representing 600 New York/Long Island businesses and 800,000 New York boaters, divers and fishermen on an important economic and environmental restoration project of our artificial reefs. This project will generate \$13.3 million for our local economy. The Cornell Extension Program, especially at this time, is so critical to those that life and work in Suffolk County. I urge you to support Cornell Extension Marine Program, and I'm hopeful that with your assistance, we can continue to work together towards rejuvenating our natural resources and improving the quality of life on Long Island.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Could you give us a sense of where your members reside.

MR. MANTIONE:

There are from Montauk and Orient to New York City. There are members in every town, North Shore, South Shore, and that's predominantly the

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bulk of the membership.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Thank you very much. Yes, Legislator Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There artificial reef, John, that you're embarking upon building or placing along -- along the ocean, it's not in the Great South Bay, it's in the ocean?

MR. MANTIONE:

These are state waters in the ocean, correct.

LEG. FOLEY:

State waters in the ocean. And the figure you used earlier was 13 million.

MR. MANTIONE:

13.3 million.

LEG. FOLEY:

And that's based upon -- how does one arrive at that figure?

MR. MANTIONE:

Well, I have --

LEG. FOLEY:

And those are new monies? I mean, since there's no reef presently in that location, it would be new dollars that would be coming into --

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

I object to this. You are not a members of the committee.

LEG. FOLEY:

There is nothing to object to. There's nothing to -- there is nothing to object to. There is nothing to object to. For 30 years, people who are not members of committees have had the right to attend a committee meeting and ask questions.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

It's a courtesy.

LEG. FOLEY:

No. It's not a courtesy, it's been tradition, Legislator Bishop. And if you want to talk among yourselves and not pay attention to the speakers, that's showing discourtesy.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Brian, continue.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you. Now, if we're talking about bringing in an additional \$13 million into the economy

LEG. BISHOP:

You just lost a vote.

LEG. FOLEY:

I just lost a vote. Well, that's just great, Legislator Bishop. Can you tell us how it brings these additional dollars into -- into the economy.

MR. MANTIONE:

This was based by our friends at Cornell by an assessment of similar reef sites off of New Jersey, taking the items that were displaced and that the use of these items and the just basically tourism dollars coming to either dive or to fish off these sites. An those -- the numbers were extrapolated based on the volume of debris that would be placed on these new sites. And there will be a letter going out shortly documenting this stuff, and all the Legislators will get one.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you, John.

MR. MANTIONE:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Thank you. Dinah Castro.

MS. CASTRO:

Good afternoon.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Good afternoon. Can you just tell us where you're from.

MS. CASTRO:

Well, I'm an outreach worker for Cornell Cooperative Extension. I worked with the Diabetes Education Program. And as the outreach worker for the Diabetes Education Program, I've worked in the Riverhead, Shirley and Southampton Health Centers for about a year and a half. I saw first hand the benefits provided by our program, the population that we serviced was oftentimes the population that gets -- that falls through the cracks of the regular health care system as we know it.

Our program was able to reach these patients and provide support for them through literature, medical supplies, which we got a lot of the pharmaceutical companies to donate here and there and much needed education. We touched the lives of hundreds of patients like the migrant workers that had no health insurance out east, gestational diabetic moms that were frightened for their own health and the health of their unborn children because diabetes can be a very scary thing for a person when they are first diagnosed. The patients -- many of our patients, out east especially, did not speak English, and I served as an interpreter for them, helping them communicate with the health care providers.

We also serviced a lot of the elderly in the communities who found themselves overwhelmed at their age by being diagnosed with this disease for the first time. And our program was able to get them the education that they needed to go on with this. And closing our program left hundreds of patients out in the cold, many of them had

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nowhere to turn to for individual counseling, which was one the main things that we provided for them in self management and in nutritional counseling. We're still receiving phone calls asking for help from our former patients at the health centers.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

How long was the program in effect before the funding cuts took effect?

MS. CASTRO:

Well, I started in September of 2000. Sally?

MS. FAULKE:

It was about two and a half years.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Ms. or Mrs. Castro, what effects will there be if these individuals do not have these programs and services continued?

MS. CASTRO:

A lot of these patients will have nowhere to turn to, and some of them stop taking their medications, and that's where you get into the complications of diabetes, where some of them, by not -- by simply not taking one pill a day, they'll feel -- they'll feel a little sick, but they keep going. And we saw this a lot in patients that had no health care insurance and/or money to buy prescriptions. They just kept going until they got so sick from a complication that they had to come in, either into an emergency room, which again costs the County money, or to the health centers for help. And it's going to be costly in terms of dollars.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

So it's an ounce of prevention that really saves a pound of cure, and, you know, that's really the issue here.

MS. CASTRO:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Pay now or pay later, but government and taxpayers will pay. And certainly from the perspective of those affected by this hideous disease, providing them with this program and services not only helps them feel better and try to sustain normal lives, but really saves society lots of money, which we'll otherwise have to pay out in Medicaid or Medicare benefits.

MS. CASTRO:

In the long run.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Right. Thank you.

MS. CASTRO:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Tom Dooley.

MR. DOOLEY:

Good afternoon. I'm here representing the Nature Conservancy of Long Island. I'm here to speak on Resolution 1199-2002, appropriating

funds to the Nature Conservancy. For the past eight years, the Nature Conservancy has been cooperating with Suffolk County Parks to take a lead on implementing prescribed fire on County lands throughout Suffolk County. These burns are not only for ecological benefit of landscapes, such as the Montauk grasslands at Theodore Roosevelt County Park, but also the Pine Barrens. Not only does this benefit geologically certain landscapes, it's also a public safety issue, in that applying prescribed fire judiciously reduces the hazard fuel load that accumulates over time. In the coming years TNC will be taking a more active role implementing prescribed fire on County lands. Excuse me.

The use of this of this -- of this fund that's valued at TNC will help secure equipment to advance their efforts to build a safe and effective fire management program Long Island. And I don't know if you received this or not, but the Nature Conservancy and Suffolk County Parks are in agreement with the use of prescribed fire. Planning is underway through the Central Pine Barrens Wildfire Task Force to expand the scope of this cooperation, among other partners; the Fish and Wildlife Services, the DEC, State Park and the Department of Energy, including BNL. The Conservancy contributes to this partnership with an internationally recognized fire management program coupled with a full-time locally-based fire management specialist. That's me. The Conservancy looks to Suffolk County for support to ensure sufficient resources are available for program success, and the Conservancy will use this grant from the Count for the purposes of buying hand-held radios to approve interagency communication on prescribed fires. The balance of this money is needed to upgrade the Conservancy's fire engine for use in corporation with Suffolk County.

I'd just like to reiterate that safety is the number one issue on prescribed fires when any fire is on the ground, and hand-held radios, definitely promote the use -- promote safety. I'd like to thank Legislator Haley for instituting this resolution. Thank you very much

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Thank you Mr. Dooley. Emerson Hasbroock. Emerson, thank you for coming. I see that there are still some others individuals who would like to address the committee on the Cornell cuts. I would ask that each of you that come up, if you could perhaps speak to another aspect that maybe someone else has not spoken to previously so we're not redundant.

MR. HASBROOCK:

Move it along. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'm speak in support of Resolution 1241, for funding for Cornell Marine Program. We've involved in programs throughout Suffolk County and served the residents of the entire County. Just as a brief example, just recently, I wrote two bond act -- two bond act proposals for the Town of Brookhaven for habitat restoration at Beaver Dam Creek in

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Brookhaven Town. I serve on the South Shore Estuary Reserve's Technical Advisory Committee, and I'm active on its Stormwater Runoff Subcommittee, where we will be assisting all South Shore communities in developing watershed actions plans to address non point source pollutions throughout the South Shore Estuary Reserve.

The funds that were eliminated from the County budget for the Marine

program are the basic salary money that we use to leverage funds to bring additional resources to the County. We bring in approximately -- or we have brought in the past year is about \$3 million for additional services and programs in the County that the County does not have to pay for. And the way that we do is that is by leveraging the County appropriation that we get, so that the funds that were cut are the funds that were use as match for our grant projects. So that ability or our ability to leverage funds to bring in additional programs to the County at no additional expense to the County has now been greatly hampered. Just as a brief example, over the past three years, I've been awarded grant money to develop DNA technology to help solve non point source pollution issues. And I've just been awarded another \$220,000 to continue this program into Northwest Suffolk and Southwest Suffolk.

However, in order to access that \$220,000, we have to provide \$110,000 in match for that program to access that money. So it's essentially a \$330,000 program that we get for \$110,000 worth of match. So that matches in terms of equipment an supplies and laboratory space and so forth. But a lot of it is in salary money for myself and other people who would be working on the program who had County funding. So most the ability to provide that match now has been compromised by the County budget cuts. And I know have to decide over the next month or two if I'm still going to be able to -- to be able to bring this program into Western Suffolk County, bring in this additional \$220,000 with the match now being somewhat questionable. So that's a direct type of impact that the cut has had to leveraging money, bringing additional programs into the County with no additional cost to the County.

Lastly, we do not duplicate the services of other entities such as Marine Sciences Research Center or {SEAGRANT}. We provide programs that are different from those agencies, and that is why people throughout Suffolk County come to us to help them solve problems. We develop programs in response to community needs that people bring to us, and they bring these issues to us because they know that we can help them solve those problems in a manner that none of the other agencies can. So we're different and we do different things. And then finally, I just wanted to add something that Stacy forgot to mention was that we work -- in our Youth Programs, we work with 68 school districts in Suffolk County and reach more than 15,000 students every year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

In sum and total, I think this program sometimes in the minds of individuals in County government there's a perception that this is an East End program. You just mentioned 68 school districts, is it fair to say that this program geographically in terms of the services in programs that are provided really is a County-wide program?

Yes, it's spread throughout the County, through all ten towns of the County.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

And if you had to divy it up, again, to respond to those who may have that perception that it's an East End Program, where are the -- you know, 50% or more of the program and services are the East End, West End, where? And it shouldn't matter?

MR. HASBROOCK:

It kind of varies from year to year in terms of how we're leveraging the County monies in the projects that we have going on that are in response to --

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Well, lets talk about the lobster study program. I mean, that's a sound -- that's a program that covers the entire length and breath of the Long Island Sound from Huntington to Orient; am I correct about that?

MR. HASBROOCK:

That's correct. However, most of the impact of that lobster die-off --

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Was in the western portion.

MR. HASBROOCK:

Was from the area west of Mount Sinai.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

That's correct. I'm aware of that, but I think other people need to be aware of that as well. Thank you.

MR. HASBROOCK:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Cynthia Kaminski.

MS. KAMINSKY:

Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing me to speak, I'll keep my remarks very brief. I'm speaking on behalf of the funding for the Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program. My name is Cynthia Kaminsky, I am a volunteer member of the Marine Program Advisory Committee and a former member of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Board of Directors. I'm continually amazed by the marvelous educational program that was accomplished by the very dedicated members of the Marine Program in spite of their need to be continuously scrambling for funding. We own three fishing boats and a fish-packing dock in Mattituck. The dedicated personnel of the Cornell Marine Program working with the fishing -- have been working industry, which has suffered greatly lately because of fishery closures and restrictions as well as the lobster die-off, which is part of the fishing program as well.

The Marine Program has been working with displaced fishermen trying to help them to diversify and redirect their fishing effort. Long Island is surrounded by water. It's residents need the Marine Environmental Research and Education Program that Cornell Marine Program provides. This program is unique. It's effort are not duplicated by any other agency. Please do not deny the multi-million dollar commercial fishing industry the help it needs so badly and the only real help it gets. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Thank you, Ma'am. Ken Ernst.

MR. ERNST:

Good afternoon. Thank you for letting me speak. I'll also keep this brief. I am a direct beneficiary of the Cornell Marine Program. I'm currently growing oysters in the Great South Bay. I would not be doing that today if it wasn't for Cornell, and I won't be do that in the future if it's not -- if it's not for their help is still available. They got me started in it about four years. I was looking for a change in career basically, and this is something that appealed to me. I grew up on the Bay. I contacted Cornell, Greg -- Greg {Rivara} helped me get started, gave me all the gear and got me going with it. There's still a lot of obstacles to overcome. We don't have it down to a science yet.

Two years ago, I put 50,000 oysters out, I harvested about a thousand of those so far. Most of them died off because of brown tide and other critters that out there got to them. So there's -- there is still obstacles to overcome. I don't have the scientific background to overcome those obstacles by myself. I need the support of the -- of the Marine Program. I need a scientist to go to when I -- when I get these critters on my oysters and I don't know what they are or how to get rid of them. The other thing I've got going is I've put in a proposal to the Town of Babylon, the waters off of East Islip are good waters, the oysters out of there are excellent. I've eaten a number of them myself, their uniquely delicious. But there's not sufficient flow to grow the oysters quickly. Right now I have a proposal into the Town of Babylon to get a plot, I'm actually looking to rent some space that they have over there from them to start growing oysters over there. If that does go through the Town of Babylon, I'll need the help of the Marine Sciences Program to put all the permits through. I've got to -- to do this commercially, you need to get permits from the DEC, the New York Department of State, the Coast Guard and the Army Corps of engineers. It's a maze, it really is. And it will be extremely difficult to do it alone. With their help it will go much easier. I'd just like to say that, you know, they definitely are helping the areas outside of the East End. I live in Brookhaven, I'm growing oysters in Islip, and I'm looking to grow oysters in the Town of Babylon. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Thank you very much. Augusta Field and them Joe Lecci.

MS. FIELD:

Good afternoon. I'm here again in support of restoring the funding for the Cornell Cooperative Extension Diabetes Education Program. I

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work both with the American Diabetes Association and Cornell Cooperative Extension, and I do outreach education and outreach. And those communities are most at risk; the African American and Latin -- Latino populations. The American Diabetes Association provides education programs through their Diabetes Sunday Programs, which are held during Black History Month in February, and also again in September and October during Hispanic Heritage Month.

Last month, we held -- we had 21 churches, African American churches which held diabetes presentations either through a volunteer diabetes educator or through a nurse from the congregation in one of the -- in the different churches. That meant -- we take an average of how many people are in a congregation when we look at the churches, and we figure that there are 200 in a congregation, so that's almost 4200 people who were reached by this Diabetes Education. We also asked this year that people who have diabetes speak up in their church, because it is a dreaded disease, it's also a stigma, and people do not like to talk about it. Many of the pastors and ministers who are in these churches have diabetes and do not wish to talk about it. So when you have individuals having the courage to sit up and say, I have diabetes, here's the paraphernalia that I need to use on a daily basis," and then to talk about how it effects them and their families and the awful, awful things that people have with diabetes, other people are then willing to speak about it.

As they talk about it, they then begin to ask the question where do we go for help, education and care. Well, as you heard, and as you know, the Suffolk County Health Department, Health Services and Cornell Cooperative Extension have been providing this health and education over the last two years through nine health care centers in Suffolk County. And that has been stopped in all but two. And we are -- we are urging you to restore this funding so that this education can go on so that the people can begin -- can continue to do their self-management that is necessary -- a critical component of diabetes. It is not something that you can just take a pill for. You really have to be actively engaged on a day-to-day basis on taking care of your own diabetes, but people need to reinforce that education, and people need to be there in place for people to go and learn from. So I'm asking you all to please vote in favor of restoring this funding.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Thank you. Joe Lecci.

MR. LECCI:

Hi. I'm Joe Lecci, and I represent the Life Lines to Longwood Community, which was established back in 1998. I'm a high school retired assistant principal that has worked in the area for over 32 years and 35 years in education. There are a few different hats that I wear, but I represent today the Longwood community and the endorsements that we have received across the board in a short of the word miraculous way of the outpouring of many different organizations that have come on-site with us in what the work is all about. This is a total outreach work, which an extension of Criss Cross Program that has been established in the North Shore Youth Center. And we are looking to complete that establishment of the Criss Cross concept,

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providing a greater focus on the networking that has been provided to us from the state all the way down to the town level.

One of the things that concerns us the most is that we're responding in a very strong way to the kids at risk throughout the last few years and the cooperation of partnerships that we've received from Suffolk County Police Athletic League along with COPE and the overall help of the Board Of Education, who has come on board to from the very beginning to give assistance to access to their schools and to the youth as an extension of a safe haven after school. We have provided outreach resources of a basketball outside court that works under a midnight basketball set up, which is something that is going on across the country. Our crisis intervention for conflict resolution has been something of a strong impact on the community as far as what we're doing with the -- with the people in need. And I think one the greatest things that I want to say is that the shortfall that we're experiencing this year is around \$70,000, and that has created a hardship on us in the momentum that we do have of volunteers as well as people that I'm surrounded by that are not working out of obligation, but they're working out of burden.

So I'm bringing here to you today what is our burden in the Longwood community. We were a representation of a community that has been without some of the resources that I have pronounced today for a number of years. I think Legislator Foley can -- could attest to that fact. And we have -- we have looked at this, and I am excited about it, and I come to you with the optimism and excitement of what I am representing here today, and that is that we would be given a hard

look at what we're lacking and see if there is anything that can be done to reconsider some assistance that would help us to expand and continuing to grow in what is a momentum of a program upon program that I feel will benefit the strong representation of a community. And further, in closing, we have private enterprises of the {Barker Organization}, who has been so kind as to donate 3.5 acres to us with a house on Route 25 in the Middle Island area. And we are looking at the possibility of expanding our programs to consider the youth and the daycare center that we operate and also the Jubilee Jobs Program and just many other facets of programs that allow us to help out the community; we do a food pantry. So we're not just one little facet, one little piece that's doing one thing. We are doing a multicultural arrangement of things that far out extends to the community. As you know Longwood is the largest area in the State of New York geographically so far as school districts go. And there's a tremendous need that reaches all the way from Lake Panamoka as far west as Medford. And we're in need, and we finally have the attention in the last few years of representatives that are saying yes to what we are doing. And I would just ask you to reconsider and give us a yes to what we're trying to do. And I thank you for your time.

LEG. HALEY:
Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
Thank you, Joe. Yes, Legislator Haley.

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LEG. HALEY:
Joe, you are here in reference to IR 1201, correct?

MR. LECCI:
Yes.

LEG. HALEY:
I don't know if you had mentioned that.

MR. LECCI:
No, I didn't.

LEG. HALEY:
Okay. This is just -- Joe, this is consistent with something we've been working on for a few years; is that correct, the Criss Cross Program.

MR. LECCI:
Yes.

LEG. HALEY:

Legislators, I'm sure you're familiar with it. Legislator Cooper and Crecca, I don't know if you're familiar with it. It is a process we started a few years back where we actually defined community services throughout the County, by which we can find a community-based organization to act, if you will, as a triage for that community. And it works in the north end of my district, and the North Shore Youth Council, which was the model. It works in the Town of Huntington. I think the Town Youth Bureau does that. And I think in the Town of East Hampton. There's actually 26 community service areas, and I'm sure each and everyone of you represent that, but I think it's pointed to know that there's still an effort to try through the Suffolk Community Council to get Criss Cross active in all -- eventually in all 26 community service areas. What Joe is asking for today is just a continuum of the effort in his particular community service area, which he has taken -- has volunteered his organization over the last few years to take charge of being that community triage unit. And we've come a long ways. And although he's \$70,000 short, I've only asked for, in this particular resolution, \$30,000 to try to keep him going so that we don't bring to an end that which we've worked so hard for over the last three or four years. Is that a correct characterization, Joe?

MR. LECCI:

Yes, it is, and I appreciate that extension of expression on that.

LEG. HALEY:

Thank you, Joe.

MR. LECCI:

Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Okay. If Legislator Bishop will return, we'll get to today's agenda. At this time I'd like Budget Review to address what I'm certain will be some questions regarding budget amendments and offsets therein. So

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let me try to preempt and save some time by raising those issues now. A number of resolutions --

LEG. CRECCA:

I'm sorry, I don't mean to interrupt, Mr. Chairman, but could we at the same time ask the County Executive's Budget Director to come up also?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:
Absolutely. It was my intent to --

MR. CRECCA:
We don't want to duplicate question twice.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:
It was my intent to hear Mr. Weiss's response as well. So, in fact, let me have Mr. Weiss respond first.

LEG. CRECCA:
Thank you. I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:
How are you doing, Ken?

MR. WEISS:
Good.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:
As I'm sure you're aware -- you've had an opportunity to look at today's agenda and the resolutions contained on the agenda?

MR. WEISS:
Yes. There may be some corrected copies I don't have. I think I have them all, but.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:
Okay. As you will note there are a number of resolutions seeking to offset the Social Security account to fund various programs and services that were not funded in 2002 Operating Budget. So first, let's start with the one that I think is the most obvious and enumerated in the most resolution, and that's those resolutions that seek to do so by taking money from the FICA account. To give us some perspective --

LEG. HALEY:
Which is it?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:
FICA, Social Security account.

MR. WEISS:
Social Security.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:
Could you just explain for the benefit of those who may not be thoroughly familiar how many employees the County has and on an annual

basis what our total contribution to the federal government is for Social Security.

MR. WEISS:

Okay. These bills deal with the General Funds, so I'm going to deal -- I'm going to answer your question as it regards to the General Fund. There's approximately 7000 employees in the General Fund. The FICA budget is roughly \$30 million. Fred and I have had extensive conversation about this. In the past -- in years past, the Legislature, through the budget amendment process, has several times removed more money from Social Security than was necessary. And therefore, we had a shortfall at the end of the year in the Social Security accounts in order to pay the bill. These resolutions in total would take over a million dollars from Social Security. I know there was some money added to Social Security for specific purposes. And my memo to Chairman Caracciolo and other members of the Budget Committee, I delineated the bills that went beyond that money that was added.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Ken, I'm not in receipt of that memo. Was it sent this week?

MR. WEISS:

No, March 1st.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

I haven't seen that.

MR. WEISS:

Did anybody else? Nobody got it.

LEG. CRECCA:

I saw it, I don't have it with me at this time.

MR. POLLERT:

I have a copy.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Could we make copies, please.

LEG. BISHOP:

You probably sent it here.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Well, I picked up my mail just before.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Kindly summarize then your memo.

MR. WEISS:

Okay. I had specific bills that I was in opposition to -- which you just took the memo, so.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

As a whole, let's -- let's just, if you could focus for moment, you indicated that last year about \$1 million was offset in --

MR. WEISS:

I believe it was the Year 2000. I don't think it was 2001.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Because I know from experience on this committee and the Legislature there have been several occasions where Legislators have used -- and I'm not certain if the executive ever did -- but I know Legislators have used FICA as offsets. So it's not without precedent. Let's everyone understand that. I want speak to, though, the ebbs and flows in County revenues and expenditures, because I don't think it's a fair statement to make and limit it to just somehow the idea that, well, if you tap into FICA, which a number of these resolution attempt to do, that at the end of the year we're going to have a fund imbalance. We may have it in that account, but then there may be other revenues that will exceed projections and, therefore, overall the ebb and flow will work itself out. In fact, if you look at the Year 2001 in the County budget, what was our status, our fund balance for the year?

MR. WEISS:

Well, I -- we had a pretty extensive -- thank you -- presentation at Finance today, but basically, the books for 2001 are not closed yet. The -- several of the accounts -- sales tax came in about \$2 million more than we had estimated in the budget, Medicaid was about four and a half million dollars less than we has estimated. So there are some positives.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Was does that mean when you say \$23 million less, you mean expenditures?

MR. WEISS:

Four and a half million dollars less.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

I'm sorry. Four and a half million.

MR. WEISS:

Yes. The Medicaid expenditures --

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

We're four and a half million less --

MR. WEISS:

Than what we had estimated, right. So there was some positive things. Looking forward, we have an -- an adopted budget with, I think, \$862

million in sales tax. Sales tax -- it's very early in the year -- will receive checks, three checks, one was an adjustment check and received two checks from March, which really reflect, I think, mostly the January, maybe part of the February period. And basically, they are flat with the exception of the growth, that one would anticipate with the additional quarter cent. So we're -- at least I advised the County Executive that we should take a very cautionary -- that we should be very cautious in any changes to the budget.

I haven't seen any indications that sales tax is coming in stronger than budgeted, and if it doesn't meet our projections, we could find

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ourselves in a -- in a deficit position at the end of 2002. Last year's budget process was a very difficult budget process. A number of the legislators here today were involved in that. And during that process, some budget cuts had to be made. And I know some Legislators suggested that, you know, the solution to last year's budget was to have further cuts. I think today is an example of what happens -- the few cuts that were made, there are numerous speakers here trying to restore all of the cuts made in last year's budgets. Cutting the budget is difficult, transferring money during the year before you have a handled on exactly where the budget is -- is dangerous, and I would recommend against it. I don't think we're out of the woods yet, in spite of Alan Greenspan said. He hasn't looked at our sales tax numbers. So I would -- I would be opposed to the vast majority of the these bills.

There's some additional bills taking money out of snow removal. You know, we do purchase snow removal supplies in the fall. You know, there's -- there's options here. We could take the savings and we could spend them, or take the savings and we could shore up our reserves. For those that were here earlier today, we had extensive conversation with our -- with our financial advisor, who talked about the effects that the rating agencies -- we're on negative credit watch. And one the major concerns they have is the fact we have no reserves. My recommendation to anybody that's interested in trying to get our bond rating off negative credit watch would be to try to shore up the reserves and not try identify savings and spend them before we find out what the total financial picture is.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Ken, where were the rating agencies in Enron? Everybody talks about the rating agencies.

MR. WEISS:

You'd have to talk to them.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Down right. I mean, that -- that's one the things that the SCC is going to be looking into. Because, you know, I think all of us around here that have been here some time don't put as much stock and faith in the rating agencies because rating agencies would just have you raise revenues, which means raises -- raises taxes. What I would submit we need to do in this County more of is a little belt tightening. Okay? When you look at the amount expeditiously that County expenditures are growing and where they're growing in personnel services and cost, that's where good management should hold the line. Not on programs and services that you get more than triple your money back for in the private sector. So we have somewhat of a different perspective there. Legislator Crecca.

LEG. CRECCA:

Yeah, I just wanted to -- for those who were not at the Finance Committee this meeting, I just want to bring home a little further some of the points that Ken Weiss made. Specifically with relation to the credit agencies and their rating. We were on negative credit watch. There's a meeting scheduled for some time in early April with one of the agencies, I think Moody's, actually. They -- if our bond

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rating drops down to a -- which would at this point we would go into the B range as opposed to falling out of the A range. We are talking about a financial impact on the County of great proportions, because we increase our cost of debt service tremendously by having additional insurance costs for our bonds, and by also increasing the interest rate for which we pay, and also the premiums that we offer on our bonds. So while it's okay to say who cares about the rating agencies, I care about the rating agencies, because, in fact, it cost taxpayers money out of their pocket. And one of ways we keep our belt tight and one of the ways we prevent excessive tax increases or hopefully a tax increase is by watching our spending. They're no question that we need to build up our reserves. I think our reserves are at one of the lowest points, and it's one of the things that the credit agencies are watching. So as we take our votes today, I would ask everyone to keep that in mind, that, you know, we need to be fiscally prudent in how we spend our dollars. And while I know for a fact many programs we have before us today are great programs, but, you know, they were not funded in the budget, we don't have the room in the budget to start tinkering around. And, you know, unless you are prepared to vote for a major tax increase next year, we should not be passing these budget amendments and transferring money out of Social Security Fund and out of other funds.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

I would remind my colleague that last year the County raised taxes not once, but three times. Legislator Haley.

LEG. CRECCA:

May I respond, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Yes.

LEG. CRECCA:

Mr. Chairman, we raised it because we didn't have the funds to -- to meet our budget, and that's why we made \$26 million in budget cuts also during that process. So my point is, is that regardless of whether we raised taxes or didn't raise taxes last year, it's okay to spend money. I mean obviously we have to do that with, but we have to have the means for paying for it, and I don't -- I'm not hearing that we have the means to pay for it. You know, we can say we do, but, you know, we've got to build up our reserves, and we've got to have money, because we're going to be faced with the same problem next year. I don't want to raise taxes next year.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Andrew, in fairness I would just argue that I think there are ways to be judicious and there are ways to be foolish. And I think when you look at the overall method, there are more ways we could be judicious. I could talk about the management salary increases. And the \$11 million that was, you know --

LEG. CRECCA:

There's a lot of things you could talk about.

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CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

And you look at the CPI and you look at salaries in this County and there's -- there's no comparison. So that's what I'm saying about good management.

LEG. CRECCA:

But then offer a budget amendment that --

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Excuse me, I have the floor. Don't take it off the backs of the people in the private sector that are providing cost efficient services, much more cost efficient than the County could provide itself and essential services that the people that don't have the

benefit of a Diabetes Program, the baymen and the other folks that work out there in the maritime and aquaculture communities need in the way of services, programs like youth programs in Legislator Haley's District. That, you know, it's a question of priority. Legislator Haley.

LEG. HALEY:

Ken, just a quick question. On the bases of an offset for the Social Security appropriations, you are -- on that bases, you are opposed those -- to a number of resolutions. Unfortunately, six of them are mine, but I understand that. If I had a different offset, is there -- is there a point at which you might not oppose?

MR. WEISS:

I don't take position on any of the programs. The programs -- the merits of the programs are not something --

LEG. HALEY:

I didn't ask you that. I asked you about -- I didn't make -- I didn't ask you to take a position on a program. I asked you to take -- I asked -- let me finish. I asked if there was another offset that was appropriate -- that you would feel comfortable with.

MR. WEISS:

You know, there's a certain --

LEG. HALEY:

All right. You don't want to answer that, that's okay, you don't have to. Next question I have is should anything pass in this today? Is there anything in this list -- on this agenda that -- that you understand if passed, would -- by this Legislature -- would be vetoed by the County Executive?

MR. WEISS:

I would recommend the bills that have delineated --

LEG. HALEY:

Ken, I didn't ask you for your recommendation. I asked you --

MR. WEISS:

I can't speak to if the County Executive is going to veto something. The County Executive will make his own --

LEG. HALEY:

Oh, so you don't -- you don't know that.

MR. WEISS:
I don't know.

LEG. HALEY:
You don't know that he would veto anything that was passed out of this.

MR. WEISS:
I can't speak for him. I would recommend to him that he -- that he should.

LEG. HALEY:
Oh, I understand the recommendation.

MR. WEISS:
But what he would do --

LEG. HALEY:
You don't have any indication that he would veto anything that passed.

MR. WEISS:
I can't say -- well.

LEG. HALEY:
At this particular junction.

MR. WEISS:
I know in the State of the County he said that he would have his -- I think his quote was, I will have my veto pen ready and be able -- be willing to use it. Something like that.

LEG. HALEY:
Okay. But that -- that was in reference to, you know, anything to reduce revenues.

MR. WEISS:
To these bills.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
Mr. Weiss.

LEG. HALEY:
I find -- you know, I guess I'll have to ask the County Exec. I have a question of Counsel, and I will certainly pass on because I appreciate the opportunity. What my concerns are is I was wondering if -- Counsel, if in those particular six pieces of legislation, if I was to change that offset to pay -- out of pay-as-you-go monies, what would I -- what would be involved with that? Now, there is a tendency -- I get a sense already from the Legislators here that my legislation is -- at best I can hope for perhaps tabling, but in absence, if it fails today, then I will have to refile to change it, submit the same resolutions under pay-as-you-go. If it was tabled, I can put in a correction?

MR. SABATINO:

Well, if the billing is defeated, and you file a corrected copy, then the corrected copy can only be addressed obviously after the eight days have run out. But through a direct discharge to the floor of the Legislature, because a committee can't reconsider at a subsequent committee meeting, so option one would be you file a corrected copy, and then the corrected becomes eligible in eight days, but the only vehicle to get it voted on would not be through discharging from this committee, but a direct discharge on the floor. Option two would be to refile, but if you refile, you have to wait for the next legislative cycle for budget amendments, which would be laying it on the table at the first meeting.

LEG. HALEY:

But if I could -- if I could do a corrected copy today -- let me ask you a question. If I did a corrected copy, and if I said to you right now, I'd like to correct all six copies, take it out of pay-as-you-go, all right, right now, if I gave you that, would what about the tendency or what would be appropriate for this Budget Committee? They can still fail it, or they could table it, and then I could get some consideration, not at the next meeting, but the meeting after that or the next -- the next Budget Meeting?

MR. SABATINO:

No. If it's -- if it's defeated in this committee, if it's defeated in this --

LEG. HALEY:

I understand what defeated is.

MR. SABATINO:

If it's tabled then it could be considered in the next Budget Committee meeting, which would be in -- no, four weeks, it would April 9th or 10th or whatever that week is.

LEG. HALEY:

Okay. Would you -- all right. Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind, I'd like to make that request. I believe, Budget Review Office, you developed those resolutions, that would be IR 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200 and 1201. Would you please make those modifications, and take the monies out of pay-as-you-go?

MR. POLLERT:

Yes.

LEG. HALEY:

Okay. And before we go, please just another moment, Mr. Chairman. I'm very curious about something very technical, that as I recall on the day that the Omnibus was passed for this particular budget that we're sitting -- sitting with today, I had submitted -- as a matter of fact, I believe most of these particular groups were represented in the Omnibus Bill to the tune of, I think it aggregated to about

\$200,000, and it was my understanding that that Omnibus Bill that was presented to everybody at 11:00 a.m. that day included those particular line items aggregating to \$200,000; is that correct?

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MR. POLLERT:

No. I don't believe it was included. I think we were going to include it, but we never filed a corrected copy.

LEG. HALEY:

Okay. Because I have a conflict because that's not what I understood. Do you -- what would Victoria Siracusa say?

MR. POLLERT:

Frankly, I would assume the same thing. I would be happy to get a copy of the Omnibus. There was a long recess, we were going to change the Omnibus Bill, but I don't --

LEG. HALEY:

Well, I specifically -- and I don't want to embarrass anybody here, I was specifically told that those items -- we don't have to resolve it now, but I want you to know that I'm not letting this die. There were specific line items in that Omnibus that were presented to this legislature, and it was later on in the day when they removed \$200,000 but were non specific. So if that's the case and that means that \$200,000 as originally part of the Omnibus should still remain, and, in fact, be a part of the budget. And, you know, in absence of getting some assistance and trying to help me with the programs that I think are very important in my district, I want to push the issue in that regard because I don't think -- I don't think the people in my district have been treated fairly, nor do I -- nor do I think it has been an appropriate -- an appropriate way to deal with the Omnibus Resolution that took place in November. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your time.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

You're welcome. Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ken, have you sent a letter of thank you to Ellie Sideman Smith regarding revenues that she uncovered? Because I find this memorandum remarkable. It says, 1194 appropriates bail money, which is in excess of the amount of funds available. I'm opposed to the resolution. When did you discover what the fund status of the bail account was?

MR. WEISS:

When I got an request from the Probation Department for a resolution for \$590,000.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right, which came after I filed my resolution on her behalf, which what they discovered was that the bail fund owed the County taxpayers in excess of, I believe, 500,000. Fred, what's the exact amount? Help me out here.

MR. POLLERT:

That I don't recall, but I know that we had sent you a memorandum that there was previously resolutions that had used the bail account that were adopted by the Legislature, but the Treasurer had not made the transfers, and the remaining balance, I believe, was in the

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neighborhood of about a hundred thousand dollars, not the \$500,000 wed anticipated.

MR. WEISS:

So just so you understand what happened is the taxpayers were shorted --

LEG. BISHOP:

Right. Over the years, they had been shorted, but you had no idea. You had no clue. You had no clue year after year after year, then she finds the revenue and you want to punish her. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WEISS:

If I didn't look into it, Legislator Bishop, nobody would know about it today.

LEG. BISHOP:

You didn't look into it.

MR. WEISS:

I initiated a review with the Treasurer's Office to get the status of the bail money. You filed a bill without even bothering to check to see if the money was there.

LEG. BISHOP:

A, that's not true, and B, you are clearly reacting --

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

All right. Let Mr. Pollert answer.

MR. POLLERT:

We were requested by Legislator Bishop to prepare the resolution. I contacted the Treasurer's Office, Treasurer's Office indicated that there was a substantial fund balance. But the Probation Department, they were not aware of a variety of resolutions approved by the Legislature, which was provided to them by the Probation Department. The Treasurer's department acknowledged that they're carrying a large fund balance, but they never made the transfers, they only found that out after I had prepared the resolution for Legislator Bishop. I contacted Legislator Bishop based upon the e-mails I received from the Treasurer's Office and indicated to him that there was not an adequate fund balance there, and he directed us to change what the offset was to the snow removal account, which we did.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Okay. I want to pick up on a comment -- on a reference made earlier to reserves. Are there any intentions on anyone on the horseshoe or from the Executive to increase County reserves sometime soon, and if so, by what means?

MR. WEISS:

Well, this would be the second year in a row we submitted a bill to change the way that the fund balance is handled. So, yes, we have intention. And we had intention last year.

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LEG. CRECCA:

Well, at committee this morning, at the suggestion of Legislator Guldi and with the consensus of the committee, we are forming a work group -- really the committee -- of whoever wants to sit on it to look at a systematic reform that help boost up reserves balances. So -- but there is no specific proposal at this time before the Legislature or at that point, even drafted.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

In the -- in the proposed resolution, does it -- is there --

LEG. CRECCA:

There is no proposed resolution.

MR. SABATINO:

The County Executive filed a bill.

LEG. CRECCA:

I'm sorry. That's a different bill than what I'm talking about.

MR. SABATINO:

It's going to be laid on the table March 19th, so it will be coming up four weeks from now.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Right. Well, I'm familiar with the bill last year, but if it's the same bill, that raises the question -- there's really only two ways you increase reserves. You either cut expenses or increase revenues. Which is it that you prefer to do Mr. Weiss?

MR. WEISS:

The -- the way we would do it is instead of treating the surplus as a one-shot revenue, we would take large parts of surplus and use it to increase the reserves. That was the bill we had last year, and that's the bill we have this year.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Right. Mr. Pollert, would you like to comment on that approach?

MR. POLLERT:

Clearly it's to the County's interest to increase the amount of reserves that we have available. It would be seen as a positive. We brought down the reserves by \$10 million last year. We used to have reserves in a number of accounts, not just the tax stabilization reserve, but we used to carry reserves in the insurance fund as well. Frankly, I haven't reviewed the proposed legislation that Ken is talking about, but currently the mechanism exists to transfer money to the tax stabilization reserve account from the fund balance when the budget is adopted. You are exactly correct. If you do that, that will increase taxes. The other way of doing it is obviously by striking appropriations if you know that there is going to be surplus and transferring it during the year to the tax stabilization reserve.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Okay. I don't want to belabor the point, but when we meet again in the month, I'd like both of you to present to the committee how much

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County expenditures have grown in the last three years and by department so we can get a first-hand look at where the cost of County government has grown. And maybe we can find ways to -- to address that. At this time we'll take up the agenda.

We'll start with the first resolution this committee will consider this year, which is IR 1190, amending the adopted 2002 budget and appropriating funds in connection with the extension of the Medevac

Helicopter Services from Suffolk County Gabreski Airport.

Is there any -- any comment or? Is there a motion? I'll make a motion to approve. Is there a second?

LEG. BISHOP:

I'm make a motion to table. Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

We have a motion to table. Is there a second?

LEG. COOPER:

Second the table?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

By Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? I'm opposed.

TABLED (VOTE: 3-1-0-0) (Opposed; Leg. Caracciolo)

1191 Amending the 2001 Operating Budget and transferring funds in connection with the extension of the Medevac Helicopter Services on a 12 month basis.

LEG. BISHOP:

What's the difference?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

The difference between the two resolutions, the first was on a permanent basis, this is on a 12 month basis. Counsel.

MR. SABATINO:

The difference is in the funding. Actually, the sponsor has decided to go -- he sponsored both, but he decided to go with 1190, which is the cheaper alternative. 1190 is like 88,000, 1191 is a larger amount like 288,000. So they're mutually exclusive. You don't adopt both.

LEG. BISHOP:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Motion to table by Legislator Bishop, I'll second that motion.

TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-0)

1192. Amending the 2202 operating Budget and restoring the funding for Cornell Cooperative Extension Diabetes Education Program.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Motion to approve. Is there a second? No second. Is there a motion

to table?

LEG. BISHOP:
Motion to table.

LEG. COOPER:
Second.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:
Tabled by Legislator Bishop, seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? Opposed. Two opposed. Two-two vote. Counsel?

MR. SABATINO:
Tabling is defeated.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:
Motion to approve. Is there a second? Lack of a second. Counsel?

MR. SABATINO:
Bill fails for lack of a second.

LEG. BISHOP:
Motion to table for -- I can't table it until the next meeting, so for two meetings. Table it subject to call.

LEG. COOPER:
Second.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:
Motion to table subject to call. Is there a second? Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? I'm opposed. It is
TABLED SUBJECT TO CALL (VOTE:3-1-0-0) (Opposed; Leg. Caracciolo)

1193. Amending the 2002 Operating Budget and transferring funds to the Department of Public Works for the purchase of vehicles for the Probation Department.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:
Is there a motion?

LEG. BISHOP:
I make a motion to table.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:
Motion to table by Legislator Bishop, seconded by Legislator Cooper.

LEG. BISHOP:
What's the offset on this resolution?

LEG. CRECCA:
Two hundred -- how much is it, 275, 275,000?

MR. SABATINO:
275,000 from Social Security, right.

LEG. BISHOP:

Mr. Pollert, when we did the budget for this year there was discussion that later on in the year we would address this.

LEG. CRECCA:

Was there money put in the budget for it?

MR. POLLERT:

The Omnibus Bill included 15 cars for the Probation Department. This would increase appropriations by an additional \$275,000.

LEG. BISHOP:

How many more cars?

MR. POLLERT:

Ten

LEG. BISHOP:

All right. So we'll wait for next year. Motion to table subject to call.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Motion to table subject to call, seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? I'm opposed. Carries three to one.

TABLED SUBJECT TO CALL (VOTE: 3-1-0-0) (Opposed; Leg. Caracciolo)

LEG. BISHOP:

Mr. Chairman, you're opposed --

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

To tabling it subject to call.

LEG. BISHOP:

You're supporting the measure.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

I'm supporting the tabling motion, not -- perhaps the sponsor could find a suitable offset to the committee's liking.

1194. Amending the 2002 Operating Budget appropriating funds for the Adult and Juvenile Community Alternative Sentencing Programs.

LEG. BISHOP:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Motion by Legislator Bishop to approve.

LEG. HALEY:
What's the offset?

LEG. COOPER:
Second the motion.

MR. SABATINO:
There's a corrected copy which was filed on a timely basis to use snow
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removal as the offset.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
And what is the amount of the offset?

MR. SABATINO:
\$77,838. Actually, no I apologize. It's 155,675 because there are two separate lines. One is supplies and one is equipment. So the grand total is 155,675.

LEG. BISHOP:
Mr. Chairman, when -- when the budget was voted on last year, the director of this program came to me and alerted me to the problems that this caused for her agency, and she said if trends continue and that judges continue sentence people convicted of low level crimes to community service, that she would be put under an even greater pressure. And that did occur. But what I said to her at that time was, Director Smith, go find the money, because we have a problem, you know, we're faced with very difficult financial situation. She took up that challenge. She found the money. She found the money in the Bail -- in the one percent bail fund, which when was checked on at the beginning of the year, had in excess of \$500,000 appropriation. The fund was created for this very purpose, to provide for programs that are alternatives to incarceration. It seemed like a perfect match. The Budget Review Office looked into it, confirmed that, yes, there was more than a half of a million dollars available and in the fund, filed the bill, and then two weeks ago I was told that there was a problem. The problem is that the fund has been utilized in the past, but the money had never been transferred. So in other words, the County taxpayer was receiving this year, 2002, money that had never before been transferred as it was supposed to be by law in the previous years. There is no way that we would know that, but for this initiative and the initiative of Director Smith to look at that fund. She found the fund. She identified the source, and when it was -- when the budget people checked to confirm it, they found, wow, now this fund owes the County taxpayer \$500,000. So obviously since the

funds is being used to transfer the fund balance, it's not available for the purposes that it was intended. However, since the taxpayers as a result of this in this year is receiving more than \$500,000 that wasn't expected in revenues, something that's very dear, I think we should be cognizant of that, and we should also look to solve the problem that's been created for the Red Cross in the alternative sentencing program. Either this Legislature needs to direct a policy to the courts not to send so many people to alternative sentencing, and therefore, send more people to our jails, which will cost us even more money, or we need to address this program. So I think that given the fact that it hasn't snowed this year, and that there's more than ample appropriation available there, that this would be a wise expenditure. It's being prudent in the broader perspective of things, and in addition, in noting the early scenario with finding additional revenue, it has a tinge of justice to it.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Motion by Legislator Bishop, seconded by the Chair. All in favor?
Opposed?

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LEG. CRECCA:

Abstain.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

One abstention. APPROVED. (VOTE: 3-0-1-0) (Abstained; Leg. Crecca)

1195. Amending the 2002 Operating Budget and transferring funds to the Long Island Regional Planning Board for Smart Growth and Environment Planning.

LEG. BISHOP:

Motion to table.

LEG. COOPER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Motion by Legislator Bishop to table. Motion to table, seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions.
TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-0)

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

1196 -- these are the resolutions, Legislator Haley, 1196 through 1201 that you'd like to table. Right? Okay.

1196. Amending the 2002 Adopted Operating Budget appropriating funds

for the Vocational Education and Extension Board.

1197. Amending the 2002 Amended Operating Budget appropriating funds for the Police Athletic League.

1198. Amending the 2002 Amended Operating Budget appropriating funds for the North Shore Youth Council.

1199. Amending the 2002 Amended Operating Budget appropriating funds for the Nature Conservancy.

1200. Amending the 2002 Amended Operating Budget appropriating funds for Mather Hospital Fortunato Breast Health Center.

1201. Amending the 2002 Amended Operating Budget appropriating funds for Lifeline Mediation Center.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

There's motion to table -- no, I'm going to make the motion. How long did you want it tables? One month? One cycle. Seconded by Legislator Bishop. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? TABLED, one cycle. VOTE(4-0-0-0)

1241 Amending the 2002 Amended Operating Budget and restoring 50% of the funding for Cornell Cooperative Extension's Marine Science Program.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

IR 1241, I have a corrected copy for the members of the committee. The offset for this is snow removal. I make a motion to approve. Is

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there a second?

LEG. BISHOP:
I'll second it.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
Seconded by Legislator Bishop.

LEG. CRECCA:
When was it -- I'm sorry. When was it -- it was amended when?

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
It was amended on the 22nd of February.

LEG. CRECCA:

I see it. I see it.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. CRECCA:
Opposed.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
One opposed. Approved.

LEG. COOPER:
Abstain. Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
It's approved, I called the vote already. IR 1246.

LEG. CRECCA:
Motion to reconsider.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
A motion to reconsider by Legislator Crecca, 1241.

LEG. COOPER:
Second the motion.

LEG. CRECCA:
Legislator Cooper was talking at the time.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
All in favor of reconsideration?

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
You vote to reconsider, I do not.

MR. SABATINO:
The motion to reconsider has to be by somebody on the prevailing side.
So it has to be by somebody who voted in favor of it.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
So it has to be Legislator Cooper.

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LEG. COOPER:
Motion to reconsider.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Motion to reconsider by Legislator Coopers, seconded by Legislator Crecca. All in favor? Opposed? I'm opposed? Dave?

LEG. BISHOP:

No. It's not fair. He didn't --

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Dave's not in agreement with the reconsideration, okay? So the motion fails.

LEG. BISHOP:

I am in agreement with to reconsider.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

You are in agreement?

LEG. BISHOP:

Yes to reconsider. Legislator Cooper clearly was in the process of speaking. I mean, you can't -- you know, in my opinion, it wasn't fair. He wants to cast a vote, let him cast his vote.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

We will now go back to 1241.

LEG. BISHOP:

Which I'm in favor of.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

We have a motion to reconsider 1241 that was approved 3 to 1. It is now back before the committee. And I make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Bishop.

LEG. COOPER:

Abstain.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

You're changing your vote?

LEG. COOPER:

I didn't vote the first time. I am abstaining this time. I make a motion to table.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

You make a motion to table. Okay. Motion to table. All in favor?

LEG. CRECCA:

I'll second -- I'll second the motion to table.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Second the motion by Legislator Crecca. All in favor? Opposed? I'm opposed. TABLED (VOTE: 3-1-0-0) (Opposed; Leg. Caracciolo)

LEG. BISHOP:

I'll table it because, Mr. Chairman, if I don't table it and it's a 2-2 vote, the resolution goes down, and I have hope --

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Well, I would just hope that the members of the committee would be consistent in passing judgment on resolutions. If we're going to use an offset for one resolution, it should be sufficient for all resolutions. I mean, I can clearly see that Mr. Cooper wasn't prepared, and I was willing to reconsider it, but obviously there's something else going on, and we will get to the bottom of it.

LEG. BISHOP:

Mr. Chairman.

LEG. CRECCA:

Let's get to the bottom of it right now. I mean, I don't know what you mean. There's an innuendo that somehow we're voting a certain or we're in some sort of a conspiracy here. If there is something you was to say, Legislator Caracciolo, say it.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Oh, I will say it. You can be certain of that. At the right time, I will say it.

MR. WEISS:

I have a question, if I may.

1246. Transferring contingent funding for various contract agencies (Phase I).

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

IR 1246, is there a motion?

LEG. COOPER:

Motion to approve.

LEG. BISHOP:

Second.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Bishop. All in favor? Opposed? I am opposed.

APPROVED (VOTE: 3-1-0-0) (Opposed; Leg. Caracciolo)

1268. Amending the 2002 Adopted Operating Budget appropriating funds for various contract agencies.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Is there a motion?

LEG. BISHOP:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
What's the offset?

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MR. POLLERT:
FICA.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
FICA. Motion to table.

LEG. BISHOP:
Is this on list --

LEG. COOPER:
Second the motion.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
Seconded by Legislator Cooper to table. All in favor? Opposed?
Abstentions?

LEG. CRECCA:
Opposed.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
Tabled. TABLED (VOTE: 3-1-0-0) (Opposed; Leg. Crecca)

1271. Amending the 2002 Operating Budget transferring funds for the
South Fork Community Health Initiative.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
Motion to approve.

LEG. BISHOP:
I'll second it.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
Second. What's the offset?

LEG. FOLEY:
Mr. Chairman, if I may speak on it. The offset is snow removal to the
amount of \$40,000. If you look at the resolution -- the memo by Mr.
Weiss about the resolutions that amend the budget, he speaks of
435,000 that was added to the FICA appropriation above and beyond
what's needed. There are monies that were placed into that account
that I had placed in at the end of last year during the budget
process. I decided not to use those monies. Those monies are staying
in the account. I'm not using those monies. Instead, I'm using this

other account. So its a sum zero because I do not intend to appropriate monies that we had moved into that account during last year's budget process.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

So there's a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. CRECCA:

I'm opposed.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

One opposed. APPROVED (VOTE: 3-1-0-0) (Opposed; Leg. Crecca)

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LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Okay. That concludes the committee's business. We come back April 9th, right.

LEG. CRECCA:

Before we adjourn, was there something -- are we adjourned?

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Yes.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:30 P.M.*)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY

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